



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, January 28, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-0590)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Geneva Berger, Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg,
Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Patricia Curry,
Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Dr. La-Doris
McClaney, Commissioner Daphne Ng, Commissioner Steven M.
Olivas Esq., Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and
Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

Excused: Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang
and Commissioner Sandra Rudnick

Call to Order. (13-0477)

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introduction of January 28, 2013 Meeting attendees. (13-0478)

Self-Introductions were made.

2. Approval of the January 28, 2013 Meeting Agenda. (13-0479)

**On motion of Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell, seconded by
Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., unanimously carried, (Vice Chair
Friedman, Commissioners Kang and Rudnick being absent), this item was
approved. Commissioners McClaney and Sorkin were not present during
vote taken for this item.**

3. Approval of the minutes from the Meeting of January 14, 2013. (13-0480)

On motion of Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., seconded by Commissioner Daphne Ng, unanimously carried, (Vice Chair Friedman, Commissioners Kang and Rudnick being absent), this item was approved. Commissioners McClaney and Sorkin were not present during vote taken for this item.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's report for January 28, 2013 by Geneva Berger, Chair. (13-0482)

Chair Berger reported the following:

- **The next Commission meeting is scheduled for next Monday, February 4, 2013. There is only one meeting scheduled in February.**
- **The TAY (Transition Age Youth) 2013 Conference presented by the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health is scheduled for May 29, 2013; staff sent a *Save the Date* flyer to Commissioners. Additional information is forthcoming.**
- **Vice Chair Friedman is being honored at the Los Angeles Benefit Dinner hosted by Facing History and Ourselves at the Beverly Hills Hotel today, January 28, 2013.**
- **DCFS Strategic Plan Team meetings have been underway; Commissioners have participated in several of meetings. If interested, Commissioners may continue to sign up to participate on an objective team.**

By common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

5. DCFS Director's report for January 28, 2013 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS. (13-0483)

Director Browning reported the following:

- **A memo was sent to staff identifying the Department's accomplishments and progress made in 2012.**

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- The rewriting of the DCFS Policy Manual is in progress. Currently, there are no other Child Welfare Policy Manuals used in other jurisdictions throughout the country that the County could use as a model.
 - 50 staff members will be promoted towards a career path in social work; these individuals include employees who have been long time employees of the Department and have experience in DCFS processes.
 - The Department is working with universities to redesign the recruitment process of social workers. Some of the universities include; University of Southern California (USC), University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), California State University, Northridge (CSUN), California State University, Long Beach (CSULB).
 - The new DCFS organizational chart will be released at the end of the week and will be effective, February 1, 2013. Some Department changes include a shift in responsibilities for Senior Management.
 - The Department participated in the first Sex Trafficking Committee meeting last week. Approximately 75 people attended this meeting, including a number of survivors of sex trafficking. Carissa Phelps, author of *Runaway Girl: Escaping Life on the Streets*, *One Helping Hand at a Time* and survivor attended the meeting and shared her story. The Federal government has continued interest in this issue.
 - Approximately, 1,000 new printers are being installed in DCFS offices to replace outdated machines. There were 275 iPhones issued to staff to improve communication and processes. The feasibility and efficiency of the iPhones will be evaluated before purchasing additional phones.
 - Clarification is being sought on the criteria of Senate Bill 39, which requires California's child welfare agencies to release certain records about children who die from abuse or neglect.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Director Browning responded with the following:

- According to the Probation Department, approximately 60 to 70 percent of youth in their system are involved in sex trafficking and have had an association with group home providers. Group home providers are aware of this issue and are participating on the Sex Trafficking Committee. Feedback from providers indicated that the current "My Life, My Choice" curriculum designed to deter youth from commercial sex trafficking is not geared to the individual who is already involved in commercial sex trafficking.

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- There is a continuous recruitment of social workers that speak multiple languages. As an incentive, a bonus is provided to employees who are bilingual.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

III. PRESENTATION

6. Presentation by the Sierra Health Foundation on the Positive Youth Justice Initiative.

- Matt Cervantes, Senior Program Officer (13-0489)

Mr. Cervantes acknowledged the California Endowment and California Wellness Foundation as funding partners of the Positive Youth Justice Initiative (PYJI) and presented the following:

- Sierra Health Foundation initiatives are committed to investing in issues that affect health outcomes. The foundation's youth program is Youth Pathways to Health which includes the PYJI. Sierra Health Foundation's Board (Board) found that the previous youth initiative that focused on general youth development was not reaching those who were in most need. The Board shifted focus to reach youth in the juvenile justice systems that are at higher risk of having poor health outcomes. In 2011, the Board committed \$1.8 million over three years to support PYJI. The initiative launched in April of 2012.
- The PYJI is aimed at improving health and social outcomes for crossover youth. A long-term goal of the initiative is to test the effectiveness of developmental supports for youth and families in the juvenile justice system. The focus on crossover youth was a result of a report issued by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation which documented the poor outcomes of this category of youth.

The initiative's four design elements combine youth development principles with trauma-informed care and deliver both approaches using wraparound services. Included in the design is improving operational capacity. The four design elements include the following:

1. Positive Youth Development (PYD) approach:

This approach helps youth acquire the knowledge and skills they need to become healthy and productive adults. Some of the key elements of this approach include: a) shifting the juvenile justice systems view of these youth as problems to assets to be engaged; b) prioritizing community-based developmental supports to ensure

that employment and education occur at the community level; and
c) that opportunities increase during the youth's life.

2. Trauma-informed care:

Trauma-informed care acknowledges that youth in the juvenile justice system have experienced traumatic events and can be treated through mental health services and through instilling a sense of self-worth and providing empowerment opportunities. The tracking of traumatic experiences that have occurred is important in order to connect the youth with the needed services and supports. Currently, systems do not often track or acknowledge this information.

3. Wraparound service delivery:

Wraparound service brings young people, who are in placement, home faster and ensures that the family and youth have the support needed for stability.

4. Improved Operational Capacity:

The current data systems are poor and not utilized as intended. Improving operational capacity within the juvenile justice system will strengthen the infrastructure.

- PYJI was launched in April of 2012 and rolled out in 6 select counties. Out of the 17 eligible counties, 10 applications were received. Los Angeles County Probation Department submitted an application; however, Los Angeles County was not selected.
- One of the investments of PYJI includes evaluating the initiative to learn what programs worked for this category of youth. The hope is to conduct a longitudinal analysis by monitoring youth outcomes in the long-term.
- Impacts of the initiative include; better collaboration with county departments, service providers, community-based organizations, families, and youth; and the development of the case-planning process and coordination of supports and services. The broader impact includes influence to statewide policy, increased use of funding resources, and increased collection and use of data.
- In order to influence the field, the PYJI Board is committed to investing in evaluations and creation of data accessible to those in the field in real time.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Mr. Cervantes responded with the following:

- One of the goals of the initiative is for the counties to have the ability to readily identify their crossover youth.
- The outreach of the initiative was targeted at probation departments; however, the application process required that relationships be built with various county departments including child welfare departments and community-based organizations. The current grant funding will take four of the six counties selected in the planning phase into the implementation phase. The PYJI Board committed to allocating \$200,000 annually for a two-year commitment with a reevaluation in the third year for additional funds.
- Wraparound was identified as a design element of the PYJI for its responsiveness in meeting the needs of the family.

The Commission expressed interest in Mr. Cervantes returning to the Commission to present once there has been a significant evaluation done on the Initiatives' efforts.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

7. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-5784)

There were none.

Announcements

8. Announcements for the meeting of January 28, 2013. (13-0484)

Chair Berger announced that Dr. Harriette Williams will be presented a scroll from the Board of Supervisors by a Second District Board Deputy for her many years of dedication to children and families of Los Angeles County following the meeting.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-0486)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

10. Adjournment of the meeting of January 28, 2013. (13-0487)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.